For the parents, students, staff, and community of Spanish River Community High School

PANISH RIVER SHARK, CURRENTS

Spanish River Community High School

5100 Jog Road Boca Raton, FL 33496 *Phone: (561) 241-2200*

Administration

Mrs. Allison Castellano Principal

> Mrs. Goron Assistant Principal

Dr. Allen-Jefferson Students A-D

> Mrs. DeMarzo Students E-K

Mrs. Carril Students L-Q

Mr. Sollod Students R-Z

December 2023 Volume 7 • Issue 3

The Spanish River Vision

Our vision is to create a nationally known high school highly regarded for its academic excellence, while helping all students prepare for and be accepted into post secondary education or careers.

A Message from the Principal

Shark Nation,

On behalf of all of our staff, I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving with your families and loved ones. Semester exams begin on December 18th and will be completed on December 22nd. Students will return to school to start 2nd semester on Tuesday, January 9th.

We had an amazing turnout at our Academy Open House last month and want to remind our Shark families with younger siblings that you must apply for an academy if you're interested, even if you are zoned for Spanish River High School. Visit the school district's choice website to apply.



Mrs. Allison Castellano

We hope to know our graduation date before we leave for holiday break. We will get you that important date as soon as we can. Important exam dates and times for AP and AICE exams have been announced. Cambridge Exam takers need to review their dates and times as there are NO makeups for AICE exams and makeups are limited for AP exams as well. Please mark your calendars with these important times as students MUST take the exams to receive their 6.0 credit for the courses.

Progress Monitoring Plans have been put in place for any students that are not meeting district or state requirements in English/Language Arts and/or Mathematics. We have purchased (with support of our school district, PTSA, and Foundation) several adaptive technology programs (Math/Reading IXL, No Red Ink, Reading Plus, NewsELA Pro, Vocab.com) that can help students that have deficiencies. Please ensure your child is taking advantage of these adaptive programs and completing required assignments given by teachers. In addition, many of our teachers are offering tutoring and exam prep sessions to help students prepare for upcoming exams. Please assist your child with helping them monitor their SIS grades as we approach the end of the second nine weeks. Semester grades are configured by using the two nine weeks grades (40% each) combined with the exam grade (20%).

I wish the entire Spanish River community a safe and happy holiday season. Please take time to relax and spend time with those you love. Make memories that will last forever.

Happy Holidays!

Your proud principal, Allison Castellano

Counseling Corner

Students' Last Name	Counselor
College & Career Coach	Suzanne Riggle
	Suzanne.Riggle@palmbeachschools.org
ELL students	Mrs. Mariliana Abramowicz
	Mariliana.Abromowicz@palmbeachschools.org
A-Ch	Ms. Lisa Sollod
	Lisa.Sollod@palmbeachschools.org
Ci-F	Mrs. Kaitlin Wheatley
	Kaitlin.Wheatley@palmbeachschools.org
G-K	Mrs.Melissa Loyacona
	Melissa.Loyacona@palmbeachschools.org
L-M	Ms. Janet Kalman
	Janet.Kalman@palmbeachschools.org
O-Sb	Ms. Natalie Havens
	Natalie.Havens@palmbeachschools.org
Sc-Z	Ms. Marissa Passatempo
	Marissa.Passatempo@palmbeachschools.org

How students can access their School Counselor

Students may make an appointment to see their counselor by going to the Blue or Silver Suite (1000 Building) or emailing their counselor. In addition, we take walk-in appointments in between classes, during lunches and respond to a note left for us to call students down.

College & Career Coach

There are currently renovations being made to our College and Career Room. Students can see our College and Career Counselor, Mrs. Riggle, during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the room next to our clinic, accessible through the Silver Suite. You can also email Mrs. Riggle to book an appointment.

Attendance & Potential Grade/ Credit Impact

Attendance is critical to learning for all students. Statistics show that those who attend all their classes on a regular basis have a higher academic success rate.

continued



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When a student is absent they should email each of their teachers and do their best to keep up with any work on Google Classrooms. Once they return to school they can coordinate with teachers regarding any missed guizzes/tests/exams.

Understanding Semester Grades, Credits, & GPA

The school year is divided into 2 semesters:

- 1st semester is from August-December and is made up of the grades from 1st quarter (40%), 2nd quarter (40%), and semester exams (20%). Students will receive .50 credit for each first semester class they pass.
- **2nd semester is from January-May** and is made up of the grades from 3rd guarter (40%), 4th quarter (40%), and semester exams (20%). Students will receive .50 credit for each second semester class they pass.
- EOC subject-area classes (Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, and U.S. History) are year-long courses with 1.0 credit awarded for successful completion of the course. The final course grade will consist of 70% in the coursework (grades from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th guarter and the midterm exam) and 30% in the EOC exam grade.

The semester and year-long grades received in each class impact the cumulative GPA, and are based on a 4.0 scale: A = 4.0 B = 3.0 C = 2.0 D = 1.0 F = 0

* Honors courses are weighted at 1.125 times the standard scale. - AP, IB, AICE, and Dual Enrollment courses are weighted at 1.50 times the standard scale.

Coffee with the Counselors

We are continuing our virtual talks for parents/guardians of all grade levels. Please join us live at 8am using this Google Meet code: meet.google.com/qmu-noic-tha.

Here are our dates for our coffee talks in 2024: January 26th, February 23rd, and March 15th. If you are not able to make it live you can view the recordings on our website. This is under: Students and Parents/ School Counseling Department/ Coffee with the Counselors.

Recognition Program

Your School Counselors are working hard to motivate & reward students with our quarterly recognition program. We had our first recognition for students who earned all A's and those who earned all As and Bs in the first guarter. These students received a certificate and we celebrated them with a treat given during both lunches in early November. We are so proud of them! We plan to expand our reward in the second quarter. We will be recognizing any students who earn all A's, As and Bs, as well as students whose GPA improved by a quarter of a point or more from first to second quarter.



"Shark Currents" December 2023 • Issue 3 West Palm Beach, FL 33406



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Testing AICE Testing Schedule 2024

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AS General Paper	Wednesday, Nay 5, 2022	8024	- 25	theat (5 minutes		180
A5 Global Perspectives	Thursday, Nay 2, 2021.	9279		theor 30 mituary		180
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Novice PF Debate Team takes 1st Place at University of Florida's Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament

This previous Hallo-weekend Spanish River Debate ventured to the University of Florida to compete in the Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament. Ninety-six teams competed at this Tournament of Champions Event over two days with six intense preliminary rounds of Debate versus national and international competition.

Our three varsity PF teams fought hard and secured some big underdog wins against nationally-ranked competition. Sophomore team Rylee Schwimmer and Jason Cohen quickly established themselves as formidable opponents and won well-fought rounds. Laney Williams and Graciela Mier also proved to be tough competitors, and veterans Logan Adelstein and Mia Landau helped lead team morale. Our PF'ers represented the best and purest form of debate, providing logical and solid arguments on a topic to inspire good conversation and discourse.

Our Lincoln-Douglas debaters also racked up wins against tough competition, with President Joseph Lucas's experience shining through. The two-time Blue Key participant remained unfazed throughout the intense tournament. Sophomore Sakina Jaferi was also successful in her first national tournament debating in LD. Seniors Isabella Hansen and Adam Siegel waded into the arena of LD for the first time and exhibited admirable perseverance and determination at their first national tournament.

Our Novice PF team, featuring freshmen Brandon Sherman and Taylor Salee, ended up having the most successful tournament out of everyone. Throughout the preliminary rounds and up until the Novice Championship round, this PF team stayed laser-focused. When it came time for the first-place trophy to be awarded, our Spanish River team of Sherman and Salee proved to be the best out of the forty-five teams in their event. It was truly a monumental victory for the program and the school, to win first place in this event

at a national competition. It was a perfect way to end the tournament after a long, but rewarding weekend.

Along with our competitors, our five judges made this entire tournament possible. They aided the team and judged fourteen rounds altogether! Mrs. Laufer, our amazing coach, truly made this weekend a fun and educational experience. Next year Spanish River is going to come back to the swamp collecting more hardware and experience to pass on to the next generation of Shark Debaters.

By: Logan Adelstein



AP Classes

AP Capstone students in Ms. Kingham's AP Seminar class enjoyed a field trip to FAU's library on October 18th. Over the course of the day, students participated in hands-on and instructional seminars in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Center, the Jaffe Center for Book Arts, and the Research Library. Highlights of the day included operating an old printing press, viewing a document with George Washington's signature, taking in the smells of the climate-controlled book room, and of course, lunch in the food court.



















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Band

Congratulations to our Silver Sound Marching Band and Guard for a fun and fulfilling season! The group performed a lively and interactive show called One and Done: One Hit Wonders Through the Years. The 64 students worked hard, learned a lot, made new friends, and took home multiple awards throughout the season, including Overall Superior ratings at the Music Performance Assessment. The group also performed the show at every football game as well as supporting the Riverboyz with lively music during the game, all the way to the team's playoff berth. The group even had time for a trip to Orlando that included a day of fun at Universal's Islands of Adventure.

Outside of marching season, the concert and jazz bands performed in both Fall and Winter Concerts. Many of the band's students qualified for All County Jazz Band, All County Concert Band, All State Band, and the Solo and Ensemble Festival. The musical talent at River is deep!

Interested in Marching Band, Color Guard, Concert Band, or Jazz Band? Join the fun! Contact our director, Craig White at craig.white@palmbeachschools.org.









Sports Corner

Are you interested in playing a sport for the winter or spring season? Athletes will need to register through the following link: https:// www.registermyathlete.com/login/. Once you create an account, you will need to submit all the athletic packet requirements through the site. If anyone has any questions, please see Coach Suarez, Athletic Director, or Coach AY, Assistant Athletic Director. **Spanish River Girls Tennis Open**

Court(Chance to Come and Play Before Tryouts)

- ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO HAVE A NEW ATHLETIC PACKET COMPLETED ONLINE
- DATES:
 - DEC 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20
 - TIMES: 3:15 PM TILL 4:30 PM
- TRYOUTS WILL BEGIN JAN 16
- ANY QUESTIONS SEE COACH JONES in PE OR EMAIL john.jones.2@palmbeachschools.org
- All Participants please bring drinks, towel and racquets!!





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Safety Reminders



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> Theatre Did you see the Addams Family Production produced by our Theatre Department? Are you interested in performing with us or being on the crew? Spring Musical Auditions are December 13th and 14th from 3pm - 6pm in Room 4109.